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Docket No. F-9052

Ser. No. 10/576,351

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently amended) A system for minimally invasive treatment of a fracture of a bone, comprising comprising:

an osteosynthetic plate including a support section positionable with a support surface against said bone adjacent to the fracture and a fastening section for fixing said osteosynthetic plate to said bone;

a fixation element for fixing in a fragment of said bone that was dislodged by the fracture, and comprising a shaft portion;

a guide element including a first connecting section via which said guide element is fastenable to said osteosynthetic plate and a second connecting section for guiding said fixation element, said support section of said osteosynthetic plate having at least first and second recesses, said fixation element and said guide element being insertable into said bone through said first recess,

said second connecting section and said shaft portion being relatively positioned so that said second connecting section providing provides a seat in comprising external seating surfaces which and said shaft portion of said fixation element is contacts said external seating surfaces so that said shaft portion is free

Docket No. F-9052

Ser. No. 10/576,351

from tilting therein and moveable axially with respect ~~thereto~~ to said external seating surfaces, said positioning providing substantial alignment of said shaft portion along a longitudinal axis of said second connecting section for back and forth movement of said fixation element along said longitudinal axis during healing of the fracture, and said movement and positioning providing a non-rigid connection between said guiding element and said fixation element, and

an anti-rotation screw for substantially preventing rotation of the bone fragment, and comprising a head portion for insertion through said second recess of said support member and into said dislodged bone fragment, said head portion and said second recess being threaded for mating engagement therebetween.

2-31 (Canceled)

32. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said first recess in said support section and said guide element are configured such that a longitudinal axis of said guide element and a tangent on a side of said osteosynthetic plate facing said bone are at an angle of between 50° and 70°.

Docket No. F-9052

Ser. No. 10/576,351

33. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said first recess in said support section and said guide element are configured such that a longitudinal axis of said guide element and a tangent on a side of said osteosynthetic plate facing said bone are at an angle of between 55° and 65°.

34. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 1, further comprising fastening structure for holding said guide element axially fast in both directions after placement into said osteosynthetic plate.

35. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 34, further comprising alignment structure operable to adjust and/or control a rotational position of said guide element relative to said osteosynthetic plate.

36. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 34, wherein said fastening structure includes a groove provided in said first recess of said support section and a corresponding nose carried on said guide element which is insertable into said groove.

37. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 36, further comprising a stop which is disposed in said groove for positioning at said nose, said stop limiting a rotational movement of said guide element.

Docket No. F-9052

Ser. No. 10/576,351

38. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 34, wherein said fastening structure includes a male thread provided on said first connecting section of said guide element and a female thread ~~that~~ provided in said first recess which is engageable with the male thread.

39. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said second connecting section of said guide element is embodied as a seat in which a shaft of said fixation element is received in an anti-tilt and axially displaceable manner.

40. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 39, wherein said shaft of said fixation element includes catch surfaces that hold said fixation element rotationally fast in said seat.

41. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 1, further comprising a bone splinter fixation element fixable in or to said guide element.

42. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 41, wherein[[[:]] said guide element includes a transverse bore[[[:]]], and said bone splinter fixation element is fixable in said transverse bore.

Docket No. F-9052

Ser. No. 10/576,351

43. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 42, wherein said transverse bore is arranged in said guide element such that a longitudinal axis of said longitudinal bone splinter fixation element and a longitudinal axis of said guide element create an angle of between 60° and 100°

44. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 42, wherein said transverse bore is arranged in said guide element such that a longitudinal axis of said longitudinal bone splinter fixation element and a longitudinal axis of said guide element create an angle of between 70° and 90°.

45. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 41, wherein said bone splinter fixation element includes a screw that has a pressure body with claws.

46. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 1, further comprising a rotation inhibiting structure for preventing rotation of the bone fragment dislodged by the fracture.

Docket No. F-9052

Ser. No. 10/576,351

47. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 46, wherein:
said support section of said osteosynthetic plate includes at least a second
recess; and

said rotation inhibiting structure for preventing rotation includes an
anti-rotation screw that has a head and that can be placed into the dislodged fragment
of said bone through said at least a second recess in said support section.

48. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 47, wherein said
at least a second recess has a female thread and said anti-rotation screw has a
corresponding male thread at the head.

49. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 1, further
comprising a target device that is detachable with said osteosynthetic plate via at least
one clamping section.

50. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 49, wherein said
target device includes target bores that are aligned with the recesses in the
osteosynthetic plate when said target device is connected to said osteosynthetic plate.

51. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said
fixation element includes a screw head with a self-cutting thread.

Docket No. F-9052

Ser. No. 10/576,351

52. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said fracture is a proximal humeral or femoral fracture.

53. (Currently amended) A system for minimally invasive treatment of a fracture of a bone, comprising:

a support section receivable in a cortical bone of the bone, and comprising at least first and second recesses;

a fixation element for fixing in a fragment of said bone that was dislodged by the fracture, and comprising a shaft portion;

a guide element including a first connecting section via which said guide element is fastenable in the cortical bone and a second connecting section for guiding said fixation element, said second connecting section of said guide element and said shaft of said fixation element being configured as anti-tilt and axially displaceable slides, said second connecting section and said shaft portion being relatively positioned so that said second connecting section providing provides a seat in comprising external seating surfaces, which and said shaft portion of said fixation element is contacts said external seating surfaces so that said shaft portion is free from tilting therein and moveable axially with respect thereto to said external seating surfaces, said positioning providing substantial alignment of said shaft portion along a longitudinal axis of said second connecting section for back and forth movement of said fixation element along said longitudinal axis during healing of the fracture.

Docket No. F-9052

Ser. No. 10/576,351

and said movement and positioning providing a non-rigid connection between said guiding element and said fixation element, at least one anti-rotation screw being arranged in said support section for preventing rotation of the bone fragment and which is placeable in the dislodged fragment of the bone, said screw comprising a head portion for insertion through said second recess of said support section and into said dislodged bone fragment, said head portion and said second recess being threaded for mating engagement therebetween.

54. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 53, wherein said fracture is a proximal humeral or femoral fracture.

55. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 53, wherein said second connecting section of said guide element and said shaft of said fixation element are configured as a slide such that said shaft of said fixation element is arranged in or about said second connecting section.

56. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 53, wherein said fixation element with a thread on its forward end and said shaft is arranged anti-tilt and axially movable in or about said second connecting section as a slide bolt.

Docket No. F-9052

Ser. No. 10/576,351

57. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 53, wherein said shaft of said fixation element is movable in an axially limited manner in or about said second connecting section.

58. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 53, wherein said shaft and said second connecting section are configured in a circular shape such that an axial rotation of said fixation element is permitted in or about said guide element.

59. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 53, wherein said support section and said guide element are configured such that a longitudinal axis of said guide element and a tangent to an outside of the cortical bone of the bone are at an angle of between 50° and 70°.

60. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 53, wherein said support section and said guide element are configured such that a longitudinal axis of said guide element and a tangent to an outside of the cortical bone of the bone are at an angle of between 55° and 65°.

61. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 53, further comprising at least one bone splinter fixation element fixable in or to said guide element.

Docket No. F-9052

Ser. No. 10/576,351

62. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 53, wherein:
said guide element includes a transverse bore; and
said at least one bone splinter fixation element is fixable in said transverse bore.

63. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 61, wherein a transverse bore is arranged in said guide element such that a longitudinal axis of said longitudinal bone splinter fixation element and a longitudinal axis of said guide element create an angle of between 60° and 100°.

64. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 61, wherein a transverse bore is arranged in said guide element such that a longitudinal axis of said longitudinal bone splinter fixation element and a longitudinal axis of said guide element create an angle of between 70° and 90°.

65. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 61, wherein said bone splinter fixation element is configured as a screw that has a pressure body with claws.

Docket No. F-9052

Ser. No. 10/576,351

66. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 53, further comprising fastening structure for holding said guide element axially fast in both directions after placement into the cortical bone.

67. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 61, further comprising alignment structure operable to adjust and/or control a rotational position of said guide element relative to said bone splinter fixation element.

68. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 53, wherein said guide element axially includes a rotational tool bore for receiving a rotational tool.

69. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 53, wherein said fixation element includes a screw head with a self-cutting thread.